



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

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MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN EFFORT TO CONTROL PROBLEM WOLVES NEAR SALMON, IDAHO

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service implemented wolf control measures southwest of Salmon, Idaho, on September 23, including the lethal control of one black subadult female wolf and the capture, collar and release of a female pup.

Wildlife specialists ordered the control action in response to a report from a rancher who had encountered six wolves in the act of attacking a domestic calf on private property. A necropsy confirmed that wolves had killed the animal. It is assumed that members of the Jureano Pack were involved in the incident, although monitoring devices did not reveal radio-collar signals from the area. It is estimated that the Jureano Pack has 9 to 11 members, including 3 new pups.

Unless further wolf-livestock conflicts occur in this area, the Service has declared the control effort completed. Gray wolf recovery program specialists will continue to monitor the situation, however, especially to detect collared wolf activity. Carter Niemeyer, Idaho Wolf Recovery Coordinator, said, "We are hopeful that telemetry from the pup collar will reveal whether or not the Jureano Pack was definitely involved in this incident since no other radio collars were detected in the vicinity during the depredation. Through the efforts of Wildlife Services, the Nez Perce Tribe and private citizens, control measures such as this are directed at minimizing conflicts between gray wolves and domestic livestock."

The annual gray wolf recovery population count will be completed at the end of the year, but presently, 16 packs and 83 pups have been documented in year 2001. These numbers will contribute positively toward the program's recovery goals.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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